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Morris student receives 2012 GLBTA Leadership Award

Summary: The award recognizes the students, faculty, alumni, and community members who exemplify outstanding leadership within University of Minnesota campus GLBTA communities.

(May 11, 2012)-Anne Meyers-Welsch '13, Menomonie, Wisconsin, received the 2012 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally (GLBTA) Leadership Award. The award recognizes the students, faculty, alumni, and community members who exemplify outstanding leadership within University of Minnesota campus GLBTA communities.

An intern for the Queer Issues Committee during the 2011-2012 academic year, Meyers-Welsch led the effort to write a proposal for gender-neutral bathroom policy. The report showed it is possible to have gender-neutral, single stall restrooms in most buildings on campus. The policy was approved by the Planning Committee and will be implemented in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Additionally, she collaborated with fellow student Luciana Ranelli '13, Duluth, to bring speaker and writer David Weiss to speak about GLBTA issues within the context of Christianity. They partnered with church groups as well as campus groups to make the event a reality.

Meyers-Welsch brought her skills to the Safe Zone training as well. As a Safe Zone trainer for the last three years, she was able to collaborate with others on campus who had a variety of agendas and concerns to revise the training.

An advocate for social justice, she created coalitions for high profile and contentious issues such as the Marriage Amendment and the role of GLBTA people in church. Meyers-Welsch has the ability to respectfully express her opinions—even when they don't coincide with others' views—and listen to others—even if she doesn't agree with their beliefs.

Nominator Argie Manolis, coordinator of the office of Community Engagement, says, "I am so grateful for Anne's work this semester. The Queer Issues Committee would not have completed so much work without her diligence and organizational skills. But Anne's best quality is her ability to connect with people of a variety of backgrounds and beliefs. She has really helped to educate the broader community about GLBT issues."

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